
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE AN
INTERDEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS THE LACK OF
CONSOLIDATED, CONSISTENT HEALTH SCREENING PROGRAMS IN
PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, chronic absenteeism, poor health, and delayed or
2 limited access to health care and preventive health services
3 continue to hinder students' academic success and schools'
4 ability to meet the needs of the whole child; and
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6 WHEREAS, school based health programs support the
7 Department of Education in achieving student, school, and system
8 success by providing school health services to public school
9 children in complex areas across the State; and
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11 WHEREAS, the Department of Education works with other state
12 agencies and partners with health care and education
13 organizations, interest groups, and families to improve
14 attendance, behavior, and course marks; and
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16 WHEREAS, these improvements are achieved by a network of
17 school-community partnerships to improve access to and
18 coordinate wrap-around services and address non-school factors
19 that impede student success; and
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21 WHEREAS, through school based health and community
22 partnerships, the Departments of Health and Human Services have
23 identified the extent of services provided within each
24 department that are targeted to public school children and the
25 need to coordinate internal departmental activity and cross-
26 departmental efforts to develop sustainable school based health
27 services; and
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29 WHEREAS, vision, oral health, and behavioral health
30 services are in high demand for school-aged children; and



1
2 WHEREAS, Hawaii has the highest prevalence of tooth decay
3 in third grade children with seventy-one percent affected, well
4 beyond the national average of fifty-two percent; and
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6 WHEREAS, of high school children, twenty-nine percent have
7 not visited a dentist in the past twelve months; and
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9 WHEREAS, additionally, more than sixty percent of children
10 in the State lack protective dental sealants, which are a cost
11 effective means to prevent tooth decay; and
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13 WHEREAS, similarly, approximately one in five children will
14 naturally need glasses to participate fully in school, yet
15 thirty-five percent of children have never seen an eye care
16 professional; and
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18 WHEREAS, one out of seven children ages two to eight years
19 were diagnosed with a mental, behavioral, or developmental
20 disorder, and between five and nine percent of children ages
21 five to seventeen years have a serious emotional disturbance;
22 and
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24 WHEREAS, a significant gap in the current Hawaii health
25 care system exists for effective awareness, diagnosis, and
26 treatment of behavioral health conditions at all levels,
27 including for school-aged children; and
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29 WHEREAS, the school based health programs and services
30 provided to public school children through a network of school-
31 community partnerships are an effective means to continue
32 collaboration between health, human services, and education
33 policymakers and health care providers to achieve sustainable,
34 achievable, and comprehensive improvements to the environments
35 in which community members learn, live, work, and play, so that
36 academic and health outcomes of Hawaii's public school students
37 can be achieved; now, therefore,
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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
40 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
41 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Health is
42 requested to convene an interdepartmental working group to



1 address the lack of consolidated, consistent health screening
2 programs in public schools for children in the State; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group include the
5 following:
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- 7 (1) A representative from the Department of Health;
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- 9 (2) A representative from the Department of Human
10 Services;
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- 12 (3) A representative from the Department of Education;
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- 14 (4) A representative from Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready
15 to Learn;
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- 17 (5) A representative from the Hawaii Primary Care
18 Association;
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- 20 (6) A representative from Project Vision Hawaii;
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- 22 (7) A representative from the Hawaii Lions Foundation;
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- 24 (8) A representative from Hawaii Dental Service; and
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- 26 (9) Health care provider representatives, including but
27 not limited to pediatric primary care doctors and
28 nurses, eye care professionals, audiologists,
29 dentists, dental hygienists, and behavioral health
30 specialists; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
33 Bureau is requested to assist the working group with finalizing
34 the working group's report and drafting any proposed
35 legislation; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
38 to submit its draft report to the Legislative Reference Bureau
39 no later than September 1, 2019; and
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
42 to submit a final report of its findings and recommendations,



1 including any proposed legislation, no later than twenty days
2 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2020; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
6 Legislative Reference Bureau, Director of Health, Director of
7 Human Services, Superintendent of Education, Executive Director
8 of Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn, Chief Executive
9 Officer of the Hawaii Primary Care Association, Executive
10 Director of Project Vision Hawaii, and President of Hawaii
11 Dental Service.

